

TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Selectmen present were Janet Smith, James McIlroy and Wes Moore. Others present were Chief Reed, Lt. Gould, Don Doane, Wolfe Tone, Brian Hart, and Fran Lane.

The Alarm Ordinance was presented for the final reading. Janet made a motion to table the ordinance. It was not seconded. Janet asked for an amendment to exempt the Newfields Elementary School and the library.

Dennis Dobe of the School informed Janet that the problem with the alarm system is with the telephone line. He would like the Police Department to re-set the alarm when it goes off.

Chief Reed stated that the School Board Members do not want to respond to the alarms and want the Police Department to take care of it. As this is a Fire Alarm, the Police Officers are not properly trained and in addition each officer in Town would have to have the code to re-set the alarm. It was suggested that Dennis contact the Fire Department to see if they would accept responsibility.

It was emphasized a police officer responds to each alarm. False alarms take time from the officer's other duties. Chief Reed said the Police Department resets the alarm at the Town Hall because the Police Department is headquartered there. If and when the Police Department re-locates, they would no longer re-set the alarms at the Town Hall.

Wes stated that the property owner is responsible for their alarm system. He is not willing to have the Police Department trained to re-set alarms.

As the Ordinance does not go into effect until July 1, 2006, gives three free false alarms, and fines may be appealed it was decided to take the final vote. Wes made a motion to approve the Ordinance as written. James seconded the motion. The motion was passed with Wes and James in favor and Janet opposed.

Chief Reed suggested a letter be sent to all businesses and residences with alarm systems informing them of the new Ordinance and also to post it on the Town's website.

As the Police Department has all of the records for responding to false alarms, it was decided to have them bill any violations. The bill will be given to the Selectmen for review and signatures before being mailed.

The Chief does not have authority to waive penalties. The violator would have to

appeal to the Board of Selectmen as only the Selectmen can waive a penalty.

Dale Purdy, who works for Raymond Dispatch, locked her keys in her car in Newfields on March 31st. She informed Janet that the Police Department responded and were very helpful. She gives her thanks to the Chief for his help.

Janet received a call early this afternoon informing her that crushed stone was being put down on Main Street by the construction without the police there to direct traffic. The contractor did not notify the police so that an officer could be posted. Chief Reed will speak with the road crew on Wednesday informing them that a police detail must be in place for work to proceed. Chief Reed did state that the detail for today was cancelled at 7:00am due to the weather.

Janet and the Chief met last Thursday and discussed receiving the department report once a month instead of weekly. The Chief likes to keep the Board informed – he will come to the meetings when he has something to report to the Board or when they request that he come to a meeting.

Chief Reed and Tom Conner went to the Emergency Management dinner last night. The Seabrook drill is the same, but they discussed other areas of Emergency Management which are important.

A resident spoke with James and volunteered to help with the benchmarking of the Police Department. The Selectmen will discuss this at next week's meeting.

Don Doane brought in new bank signature cards for the Selectmen to sign. Wes was added and Roberta Gerkin deleted as authorized signers.

The loan rates came in and are as follows for the Town's portion of the Piscassic Greenway purchase:

Ocean National – 3.73%
Citizens Bank – 3.78
TD Banknorth – 4.41%

The Selectmen unanimously agreed to take the loan with Ocean National.

Bobbie Byrne's thank you letter to Janet Smith was read.

The thank you letter to Jennifer MacPherson for chairing the Senior Luncheon was signed.

Tom Conner's appointment as Emergency Management Director was signed.

The invoices from Fran Lane on the Piscassic Greenway project were initialed by the Selectmen as requested by the Conservation Commission.

Perkins Insurance offer to extend the reporting period for expired insurance policies was reviewed.

Wes Moore spoke with Al Dixon of Newmarket today and Al will get a key for Scott Moulton to the Ash Swamp Road Dump. Scott is contracted to do the Town's groundskeeping.

Wes also spoke with Bill Davis to see if he is willing to negotiate a new cable contract. The current contract expires in April 2007. Bill will check his schedule to see if he has enough time to devote to this project. In the event Bill cannot do this, it was suggested that Mike Woodworth be contacted as he expressed interest in serving the Town.

Fourteen applications for the Elderly Exemption were received. Each application must be approved by the Selectmen. All information is confidential. Wes made a motion to have Sue McKinnon (Town Clerk) review the applications first and give them back to the Selectmen with her recommendations. Janet seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Wes made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 28th, 2006 Selectmen's Meeting as revised. James seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Brian Hart, Wolfe Tone, and Fran Lane came in to discuss the Piscassic Greenway Project. The closing will take place in a couple of weeks and the easements and funding have to be ready soon.

Janet made a motion to adjourn at 10:00pm. It was seconded by Wes and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer